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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5857
INFO RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1626
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 4458
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 3675
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0379
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2021
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5904
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2469
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9386
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 3502
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7755
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E.O. 12958:N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PAKISTAN, U.S./IRAN; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press. The Mission reports on English-language media via email through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

PAKISTAN

11. "PAKISTAN ON LAHORE ATTACK," editorial in the March 23 RASHTRIYA SAHARA Hindi daily: "The Pakistan Home Minister's report on the attack on Lankan cricketers blames 'some foreign countries' for the strikes. It says militants based in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region may have been used by the perpetrators. This claim by Pakistan, bizarre as it is, confirms that the country has become a hub of global terrorism and that the Pakistani government is powerless against terrorists active on its soil. Pakistan should come out of this state of denial and take international help to eradicate terrorist groups."

U.S./IRAN

12. "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP," editorial in the March 23 centrist DAINIK HINDUSTAN Hindi daily: "Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was cold to President Obama's proposal of friendship saying Tehran wants action, not words. But Obama's proposal is undoubtedly positive and a symbol of a change. Iran may be more

liberal than some other Islamic nations, but its leadership is still narrow-minded. Such a leadership will not accept U.S. friendship easily. But Obama and Israeli President Peres' messages to Iran could help make a new beginning."

¶3. "OBAMA'S NOWRUZ MESSAGE," editorial in the March 24 independent Bengali daily ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA. "That Obama's slogan of 'change' was not merely lip service is evident from the Administration's new domestic as well as foreign policies... however, the three decades-old hostility is not going to evaporate with a video-message, particularly when anti-Americanism has been the basis of existence for Iran's ruling mullahs... if the Ulamas [clerics] come to power in the upcoming elections, there will be none to shake hands with Obama. Meanwhile, Obama will have to demonstrate more examples of 'change,' like revoking threats of economic sanctions and aggressions."

¶4. "OBAMA'S OFFER TO IRAN", editorial in the March 23 right-of-center Urdu daily MUNSIF: "Obama's Offer to Iran for direct talks on the basis of mutual respect is an extremely reasonable offer. But history shows that America does not practice what it preaches. Instead, it tries to thrust its own brand of democracy on others. Obama's greatest challenge is to treat Iran with the same regard as Israel. The Jews have a stranglehold over the U.S. economy. America will have to tame its 'adopted son' Israel, and that is not easy!"

WHITE